GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:561
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002
PILFERAGE OF COAL AND INTRODUCTION OF VRS IN CIL
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coal being pilfered annually from different coal mines;

(b) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the Coal India Limited (CIL); and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) Theft/pilferage of coal is carried out clandestinely and as such it is not possible to exactly specify the quantity of coal being pilfered from different coal mines. However, as per raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the concerned state Governments about 23000 tonnes of coal was recovered in the subsidiary companies of CIL during 2000-01.

(b) Law and order is a State subject, hence the local police is approached by the coal companies frequently. Many FIRs (1505 in 2000-2001) have been filed in this connection in the various coal companies. In addition, the following steps are being taken by coal producing subsidiaries of CIL to prevent theft or pilferage of coal: -

i) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal, and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.

ii) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.

iii) Construction of watch towers and providing lighting arrangements around the coal stacking area.

iv) Erection of barbed-wire/wall fencing around pit head depots, static security manning including deployment of armed guards during the night hours.

v) Escorting of loaded rakes upto railway weighbridges by armed guards and joint patrolling with Railway Protection Forces in the long railway tracks which are prone to wagon looting.

vi) Sealing of illegal mining spots.

vii) Stringent action against transport vehicles caught in the act of theft or pilferage.

viii) Engagement of lady security guards for preventing women and children indulging in theft/pilferage of coal, strengthening of the security discipline by reassessing the requirement of security personnel, horizontal movement of executives with aptitude for security work, and inducting qualified security personnel at junior, middle and senior levels.

ix) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training to new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security setup.

x) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the state authorities.

(c) In Coal India Ltd. a voluntary retirement scheme inrespect of non-executives as formulated by the then BPE was intoruduced during 88-89 and is still in operation.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.